

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05539 271518Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----097453 271522Z /50

O 271424Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5539
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5539

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS
SUBJECT:CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN

1. I SPENT A COUPLE OF HOURS WITH DAYAN AT HIS HOME
SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 24, TO REVIEW FOR HIM MY IMPRESSIONS
OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. IN THE
COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, HE MADE SEVERAL OBSERVA-
TIONS ABOUT RELATED MATTERS WHICH ARE WORTH REPORTING.

2. DAYAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE VISIT LOOKED FROM HERE
AS IF IT HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL ON ALL FRONTS. FRANKLY,
HE SAID, BEGIN'S SUCCESS IN REUNITING THE POLITICAL
SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JEWRY SOLIDLY BEHIND HIM WAS ONE
OF HIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, TOGETHER WITH THE CLOSE
RAPPORT WHICH HE APPARENTLY ESTABLISHED WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER. BUT, DAYAN CONTINUED, DESPITE THE PRESENT
EUPHORIC ATMOSPHERE HE WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT
THERE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS ON THE KEY ISSUES
OF SUBSTANCE WHICH DIVIDED US, ESPECIALLY THE PALESTINIAN
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PROBLEM. IN THIS CONNECTION HE WONDERED WHETHER SECRETARY
VANCE INTENDED TO GET INTO SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF
SUBSTANTIVE ALTERNATIVES DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP,
OR LIMIT HIMSELF TO OVERCOMING PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES.
(THE CLEAR IMPLICATION IS THAT DAYAN HOPES VERY MUCH
IT WILL BE THE FORMER.) HE ALSO WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE
EXTENT TO WHICH ONE COULD HAVE SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS IN NEW

YORK WITH THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE SAID THAT FROM HIS EXPERIENCE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE NOT EMPOWERED TO DECIDE ANYTHING OF ANY SUBSTANCE, AND THAT EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED IN THE CAPITALS. NONETHELESS, HE COULD SEE WHATEVER CONVERSATIONS COULD BE TRIGGERED IN NEW YORK MIGHT SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE.

3. I TOLD HIM IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD INDEED CONCENTRATE ON THE PROCEDURAL ROADBLOCKS TO GENEVA, BUT HE WOULD ALSO CERTAINLY BE PREPARED AND INDEED PROBABLY WISHES TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE ELEMENTS OF A SUBSTANTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS - AS HAD OCCURED IN WASHINGTON DURING THE BEGIN VISIT. SEEKING TO REASSURE HIM, I SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT I KNEW THE SECRETARY WOULD BE HAPPY TO "TALK SUBSTANTIVE OPTIONS" WITH DAYAN, BOTH HERE IN ISRAEL AND WHEN DAYAN CAME TO THE US AT THE TIME OF THE UNGA.

4. DAYAN ASKED WHAT THE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE IN REGARD TO SOUTH LEBANON IN LIGHT OF THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS. I REPLIED THAT WE PLAN TO TEST OUT THE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IDEA WITH SARKIS AND PERHAPS VERY INFORMALLY WITH THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S STAFF; ASSUMING ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THOSE QUARTERS, SECRETARY

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VANCE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO PURSUE IT WITH SYRIANS AND THE LEBANESE AS WELL AS THE ISRAELIS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP. DAYAN COMMENTED FURTHER THAT A BUFFER ZONE SHOULD STRETCH AS FAR AS THE LITANI RIVER. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IF A UN FORCE WERE IN BEING, A REJUVENATED LEBANESE ARMY COULD BEGIN TO SUPPLY SOME STROOPS, AND IF SYRIA PLUS THE FATAH WING OF THE PLO WERE ALL BEHIND THE CONCEPT, THAT THOSE PALESTINIAN REJECTONIST UNITS NOW IN THE SOUTH COULD BE NEUTRALIZED OR PUSHED OUT SINCE THEY ARE NOT "ALL THAT NUMEROUS." HE SAID AGAIN THAT IN HIS CONCEPT A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE WAS REQUIRED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE LEBANESE ARMY IS AGAIN ABLE TO RESUME ITS REPONSIBILITIES AT THE BORDER AREA.

5.COMMENT:DAYAN WAS CLEARLY FEELING SOMEWHAT LEFT OUT,DESPITE HAVING HAD DETAILED REPORTS FROM AMBASSADOR DINITZ ABOUT THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS. HE IS CHAFING AT THE BIT TO GET INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HIMSELF, AS HE HAS BEEN FROM THE DAY HE ASSUMED OFFICE.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PINS, US, IS, LE, (DAYAN, MOSHE), (LEWIS, SAMUEL W)
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